



PressRelease

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Chesapeake Watershed Forum

**First annual Forum to assist watershed organizations and local governments
in watershed planning, protection and restoration**

Baltimore, MD (04/05/06) The first annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum will take place November 17-19, 2006 in Shepherdstown, WVA at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Conservation Training Center.

The Forum will feature five Tracks with multiple sessions. The tracks will include: 1) Organizational capacity building and fundraising; 2) Communication the message; 3) Science, technical tools and practices for watershed management; 4) Planning, policies and programs for watershed management; and 5) Collaboration-how to work together and achieve successful watershed management. In addition to the tracks, labs, seminars, networking events and field trips are planned.

"The Chesapeake Watershed Forum will provide an opportunity for watershed groups and local governments across the region to come together to learn new tools and techniques as well as share best practices," said Lou Etgen, Director of Terrestrial Restoration for the Chesapeake Bay.

Goals of the regional November forum are to strengthen the capacity of watershed organizations, highlight new tools and techniques, stimulate effective partnerships between watershed groups and local governments, and to build capacity for more effective communication with the public about the importance of watershed stewardship.

The Chesapeake Watershed Forum will become an annual event, held to assist watershed organizations and local governments in watershed planning, protection and restoration. "Restoring the Bay requires new approaches, creative thinking and innovative implementation strategies to get the job done," David Bancroft, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay said. "An annual Watershed Forum will help accomplish that."

Mid-Atlantic region watershed organizations and local governments are invited and encouraged to take part in the Forum. Preliminary information is available at: www.AllianceChesBay.org. Registration materials will be available on the website in May.

Chesapeake Watershed Forum planning committee members include representatives from Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Program Watershed Assistance Workgroup, Back Creek Watershed Association, James River Association, and River Network.

Founded in 1971, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay builds partnerships that benefit the Chesapeake and its rivers.

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